

**FFA Farm Tractor Safety - Educational & Competitive Programs**  
*Presented by Rick Kersbergen and Richard Brzozowski, Extension Educators,  
University of Maine Cooperative Extension*

<b>Approximately 3 to 4 hours of programming is planned for these combined programs</b>
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**Participant Criteria:**

- be at least 13 years of age and an active student in their FFA program
- be tall enough to reach the pedals (brakes and clutch) when seat belted in the operator's seat
- be able to mount and dismount the equipment without assistance
- be able to see
- be able to understand verbal directions and hand signals
- have experience in tractor operation for the tractor and 2-wheel trailer competition
- have experience in skid steer operation for the skid steer course

**Educational Session** (for all participating students) 40 minutes

- 10 commandments of tractor safety
- Pre-operational check activity (using a tractor with issues - not ready for operation)

**Driving Skills Competition** The skills competition will measure handling ability, finesse, proper clothing, PPE and safety. These sessions could be presented concurrently if adequate assistance from neutral parties is available.

- **Farm tractor driving skills with a 2-wheel trailer** - Participants will move through a course with a 2-wheel manure spreader. The manure spreader will carry an upright 6-foot step ladder. Contest participants will be timed from start to finish. Points (time penalties) will be added to the end time of the contestant if any unsafe actions are performed, when a cone/pipe is touched and when the step ladder falls. It is suggested that one student per school compete in this event. Or participation would be limited to about 8 participants.
- **Skid steer operation and skills** – Participants will move through an 8-cone course going forward and backward. A structure (small step ladder so as not to impair the view of the operator) will be placed upright in the bucket. Points (time penalties) will be added to the end time when a cone/pipe is touched and when structure falls. It is suggested that one student per school compete in this event. Or participation would be limited to about 8 participants.

**Pre-operational check competition**

- Contestants have no more than 10 minutes to perform a pre-operational check of a farm tractor. Each contestant will note (write) all unsafe points or conditions which they detect on an individual score card. No speaking with others, hand signs or peaking onto others cards will be tolerated. Contestants will compile points based on the number of correct points identified. This session could be presented in 10-minute segments. Written tractor safety questions will break any tie scores.